



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

October 10, 2003

**BY FACSIMILE**

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**Re: General Motors Corporation and Hughes Electronics Corporation/The News Corporation Limited, Application for Authority to Transfer Control, MB  
Docket No. 03-124**

Dear Counsel

We are today stopping the clock on consideration of the license transfer applications related to the proposed acquisition by The News Corporation Limited of a 34% interest in General Motors Corporation's subsidiary, Hughes Electronics Corporation.

The 180-day clock represents a good faith undertaking by the Commission to complete action on assignment and transfer of control applications within a certain timeframe and a means to keep interested parties informed of the progress of those applications. The clock carries with it no procedural or substantive rights or obligations but merely represents an informal benchmark by which to evaluate the Commission's progress. Although the Commission seeks to meet the 180-day benchmark, its statutory obligation to determine whether an assignment or transfer

NO. 03-124 OF REC'D. 2  
LAW OFFICE

October 10, 2003

Page 2

serves the public interest takes precedence over the informal timeline. Thus, the Commission retains the discretion to determine whether, in any particularly review proceeding, events beyond the agency's control, the need to obtain additional information or the interests of sound analysis constitute sufficient grounds to stop the clock

We are stopping the clock on consideration of your license transfer application because additional record development and consultations between the Commission and the Department of Justice, as permitted under our rules, is required. We will be sending you a supplemental document request shortly. Once we have received an adequate response to that request and completed our discussions with the Department of Justice, we will restart the clock

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Kenneth B. ...".

W. Kenneth B. ...  
Chief, Media Bureau